EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory Johnson on 1/15/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of performing a management task, the task modifying information associated with one or more back-end resources in a distributed network, the method comprising:

receiving information from a first back-end resource related to a first task, the first task for a first managed object of a predetermined object type, wherein the first managed object has associated attributes, and wherein each attribute has a data field and a value, and wherein the information received from the first back-end resource indicates whether the first back-end resource is used to perform the management task;

receiving information from a second back-end resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the first managed object, wherein

the information received from the second back-end resource indicates whether the second back-end resource is used to perform the management task;

storing in a memory the information received from the second back-end resource in association with the information received from the first back-end resource;

receiving a request to perform the management task in relation to the first managed object;

determining, based on the stored information, which of the first back-end resource and the second back-end resource to call in response to the request; and

sending a task request to the determined resource to perform the management task on the first managed object, wherein the sending occurs after receiving information from the first back-end resource and receiving information from the second back-end resource.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1, ~~wherein the method~~ further comprising~~comprises~~:

receiving a request to display task information related to the first object; and

displaying task information received from both back-end resources in response to the request to display task information.

3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 2, further comprising: ~~wherein the method further comprises~~

receiving static task information related to the object type of the first managed object;

storing the static task information in a task store;

receiving dynamic task information related to the first managed object, the dynamic task information including a task handler identification within the back-end resource; and

in response to the request to display task information, displaying both static and dynamic task information.

4. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 3, wherein the task handler identification is a pointer to [[some]] executable code on the first back-end resource.

5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 3, wherein the task handler identification relates to executable code on the first back-end resource and the second back-end resource.

6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 3, ~~wherein the method further comprises~~ further comprising:

in response to the request to display task information, retrieving the static task information from the task store;

sending a request for dynamic task information to one of the first back-end resource or the second back-end resource ~~resources~~ using the handler identification, the request including instance information for the first managed object; and

receiving dynamic task information for the instance of the first managed object.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1, ~~wherein the method~~ further comprising:

associating a first management task with a second management task; and

storing a script function, wherein the script function is callable and performs both the first management task and the second management task.

13. (Currently Amended) In a network environment having multiple resources, a computer storage medium encoding instructions for executing a method, the method comprising:

receiving information from a first resource related to a first task, the first task for a first managed object of a predetermined object type, wherein the first managed object has associated attributes and task information, and wherein each attribute has a data field and a value, and wherein the information received from the first resource indicates whether the first resource is used to perform the management task;

receiving information from a second resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the first managed object, wherein the information received from the second resource indicates whether the second resource is used to perform the management task;

storing in a memory the information received from the second resource in association with the information received from the first resource;

receiving a request to perform the management task in relation to the first managed object;

determining, based on the stored information, which of the first and second resource to call in response to the request; and

sending a task request to the determined resource to perform the management task on the first managed object, wherein the sending occurs after receiving information from the first resource and receiving information from the second resource.

~~receiving a request from a new resource to install the new resource on the network environment, the request being in a predetermined format;~~

~~including in the request communication information associated with the new resource;~~

~~verifying the installation of the new resource;~~

~~retrieving task information associated with the new resource, wherein the task information relates to an object type managed by the new resource;~~

~~storing in a memory the task information associated with the new resource; and~~

~~sharing the task information with another resource on the network.~~

14-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A system for task-based management of a plurality of resources comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising computer-program instructions executable by the process for:

identifying a plurality of resources which are in communication with a management module, wherein each of the resources are configured to provide information corresponding to the management of a plurality of objects associated with each of the resources, wherein each of the plurality of objects has associated attributes having a data field and a value, and wherein at least one of the plurality of objects is a user object that contains information corresponding to

a network user, and wherein the management module is capable of receiving a request to access the information related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive task information from the plurality of resources related to their associated objects;

wherein in response to receipt of a request to perform a network administration task, the management module performing task functions on the associated objects of more than one resource; and

combining the task functions into a single script function through the use of a scripting manager.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The system ~~as defined in~~ of claim 18, wherein the management module comprises a task manager to receive and store task information, wherein the task manager is configured to communicate ~~further communicates~~ with the resources to perform the network administration task.

20. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The system ~~as defined in~~ of claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of resources provides information to the task manager in XML format.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-7,13,18-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on 2/7/2008 and 10/9/2008 with respect to the amended claim limitations point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DUYEN DOAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4226. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571 272 3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452